

Community Services Advisory Commission

February 10, 2015

Minutes

Commission Members:

Present: Christine Gawronski, Marilyn Baker, Ann Bohman, Mel Ehrlich, Warren Fishman, Stephanie Hall, Kelli Lynn, Derek Graham, Mindy Carr

Absent: None

Staff Members Present:

Matt Earman, Director of Recreation Services
Fred Hahn, Director of Parks & Open Space

Guests:

Councilman John Reiner

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Christine Gawronski established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Reiner said he wanted to clarify some comments he read from past meeting minutes about how he misled the commission on what their roles and responsibilities are. Mr. Reiner said he actually has not misled this commission. The new mission of CSAC, as he explained the first time he attended the meeting, is to empower this group. The role of this group is to prepare studies on the topics of interest and then prepare a budget associated with each topic. The ideas should then be proposed to see if the City is interested in funding these projects. An example would be the idea of developing climbing walls using natural cliff surfaces. Eric Krause has attended as a guest speaker and he has done a lot of the research for this topic. If this is something the commission is interested in, then the commission would need to determine the cost associated with this and then make a presentation to Council.

Mr. Reiner said another topic that has come back up is the topic of the dog park improvements. A memo was circulated from Mayor Keenan regarding dog park improvements. A resident requested more toys at the dog park. There is a Dublin resident that visits numerous dog parks and she has some great ideas of additional features to add. If this group is interested then you can have her attend to provide some input. Then this group can discuss and make some recommendations on what additions to add. We would like this commission to be a fun active group rather than just a discussion group, which is what the old CSAC and PRAC groups were. We want this group to be more empowered to produce results.

Mr. Graham arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Baker asked for confirmation that Council is looking for this commission to provide a budget in reporting our recommendations, but Council is not expecting this commission to implement the ideas, such as purchasing or making arrangements as such, but just to make a proposal?

Mr. Reiner said not necessarily. For example, the piano project that this commission is interested in, I would recommend that a sub-committee go online and look on Craig's List and see what is available and make some phone calls to see which pianos are the best quality and then the sub-committee should make a recommendation on the top three pianos. The sub-committee should also make recommendations on some type of protective cover for them and the cost associated with that. Then provide some recommendations on the locations to place the pianos. Once these recommendations are

made then if the City agrees, we would engage staff to help pick-up and place the pianos and purchase covers for the pianos.

Ms. Gawronski asked Mr. Reiner for confirmation that if this commission does the preliminary footwork, gets the costs associated with the project and then makes the recommendation to Council; Council will then let the commission know what we need to do to proceed. Mr. Reiner said yes that is correct.

Ms. Gawronski said some of the confusion is that Council wants us to be more of an action commission now rather than an advisory commission, but our charter doesn't read that way.

Mr. Reiner said the charter reads that this commission should make presentations and a part of that presentation can also include implementation. For example, this commission wouldn't just provide a presentation that says we need dog park improvements, but should also include what type of improvements and the costs associated with those improvements. Maybe input from the resident that has some ideas, could be discussed with this commission in making recommendations.

Ms. Carr said it sounds like the recommendations for the dog park provided by this commission is not what Council was looking for, but these recommendations came from the sub-committee of CSAC surveying actual users of the dog park for their input and this commission had these discussions before providing recommendations to Council. There were other ideas discussed, such as additional toys, but after talking to users of the dog park, those were not important improvements for the end users. If the recommendation this commission made to Council wasn't suitable for Council then we need to know why.

Mr. Hahn said some of the recommendations made by CSAC will be funded this year. One of the issues brought forth to Council by a resident is the quality of turf. That is a whole different matter. It is a lot like soccer fields. We restrict the usage of soccer fields during the off season so it give the grass the chance to re-establish for the next season. One solution to the turf issue is to close the dog park while the grass is in dormancy during the cold weather months. Mr. Hahn said staff can also place artificial turf on it; and for a two acre park the cost would be just shy of one million dollars.

Mr. Reiner said maybe staff could turf a small area and place some toys in it and it could be an all season area of the dog park.

Ms. Carr commented that there isn't room in that dog park for toys. It would almost be dangerous when you get the larger dogs in there that like to run. The acreage of this dog park is not that large, so it could be bigger, but we also discussed some of the limitations in expanding the dog park.

Ms. Lynn asked Mr. Reiner if these type of issues regarding dog parks, etc. are being brought forth to Council, should some of those issues be communicated with this commission, so we are aware of what the community is requesting. We have discussed before that we don't think the community completely understands that they can bring these type of requests and concerns to this commission.

Mr. Reiner replied that Ms. Lynn makes a great suggestion to make sure the community knows this commission is here to listen to their input. Mr. Reiner commented that this commission should start implementing a few of the projects. He said if you start simple and complete one project then as more projects come up, Council will see that this commission has moved forward with completion of smaller projects and would be more willing to provide funding for future projects.

Ms. Baker added to the comment that Ms. Lynn made by asking if some of the recommendations that are being brought to City Council could be forwarded to staff so that staff can share those requests with the commission.

Mr. Reiner said the initial list he brought to this commission earlier in the year was put together based on ideas that continually come back to Council.

Ms. Baker said there seems to be some confusion with the process. The commission should be analyzing, planning and proposing the project to Council, but it should not be the commission's responsibility to complete the projects. There should be communication between the commission and staff regarding the recommendations that are being made, but the commission shouldn't really be implementing the projects.

Mr. Reiner provided an example of how this process could work. If this commission determined the dog park needed more equipment and determined what the cost of the equipment would be; it would then be discussed between the commission and staff. If staff determines they do not have the time to install then this commission should determine what the cost would be to install it and then propose this project to Council along with the budget and plan to get it installed.

Mr. Fishman said since Mr. Reiner attended CSAC the first time, the commission has been confused about their roles. Mr. Fishman believes the commission should come up with ideas and discuss them with staff. It makes sense for staff to be involved when we are discussing what the budget would be and resource allocation. Mr. Fishman said he did the research in May for pianos and lined up pianos but did not have the resources to implement this, so it is just now getting done by staff. Also, when it comes to cost associated with these projects, staff has already dealt with some of these vendors and products so they could much easier help identify the cost associated with implementing some of these ideas. Staff needs to be involved in this process in order to put together a proposal that Council will approve and that will be completed.

Mr. Earman commented that where the frustration seems to be is how these projects will get implemented. As the commission does the research for each project it needs to be determined how the commission and staff will work together to get these ideas implemented. These ideas may be presented to City Council and they may approve them, but the projects may not get completed until the next budget cycle so that staff can plan it into the programming for the next year. Mr. Earman reemphasized a comment that Mr. Hahn has said time and time again, that there are day to day operations that need to be done and planned projects that need to be completed. There are no extra bodies just waiting on projects to come up. So when the Commission prepares reports for these projects, staff needs to be able to determine how to program these in the day to day priorities of the City. When presenting the projects to City Council, it will be important to include the implementation details and time line associated with them to avoid confusion and frustration.

Mr. Hahn commented that it is not one size fits all. Some of these ideas have different needs and therefore need to be planned and implemented differently. In the instance fishing education, one of the ideas is to have high quality signs to promote this topic. Without doing research Mr. Hahn said that he knows the price of these signs are approximately \$350, so he knows the cost and knows what the time frame and process would be to implement these signs. So he could share with the commission what budget implications are associated with the idea of fishing education. Mr. Hahn said on the other hand, the topic of the boulders and climbing will vary depending on the scenario and pricing that can be all over the place. Also, these vendors want to know who they are dealing with before they provide pricing.

Ms. Carr commented that once the commission makes their recommendations to Council and Council has approved it, then staff needs to take ownership of it to make sure it gets complete. If individuals on this commission are responsible for a project and then their term is up, then it may not get completed with new members coming on board. The new members may not have the same passion for a particular project that was handed off to them.

Ms. Gawronski replied that it is important for the members of the sub-committees to keep go records of the research they have done for each topic, so it can be passed on when they are gone to either staff or the new commission members so someone else can pick up where they left off.

Mr. Reiner stressed that Council would like to see some of these projects move along and get completed. Council gets recommendations and we want to make sure if Council approves them that they get implemented.

Ms. Carr said this commission did review the initial list that Mr. Reiner presented to this commission earlier in the year. Some of the items we choose to move forward with and some were not viable and we decided not to proceed with them. This group and the sub-committees have done a lot of research and some topics we are still researching and other have come to a point where we feel we have done the research and provided updates and there really isn't anything more the commission can do without the help of staff. If that is not being reflected to Council then maybe we need to figure out another way to make sure it is communicated to Council.

Mr. Reiner replied that Council does read the minutes every month and the reports that are submitted for recommendations. This commission may find it beneficial to attend a Council meeting monthly and provide a brief update to Council on the CSAC projects. Attending Council meetings would also help get more information out to the public about what this commission is working on. Mr. Reiner thanked the commission for all their hard work. Council really appreciates all the hard work to make Dublin the best community possible.

Ms. Gawronski asked Mr. Reiner if the pianos need to have Dublin related themes or can it be something artistic within reason. St. Brigid of Kildare is painting one of the pianos and they would like to paint a Wizard of Oz theme.

Mr. Reiner said he doesn't believe that Council really has an opinion on it, as long as it is tasteful.

Mr. Fishman wanted to confirm that Mr. Reiner stated that once the projects are approved that Council would like staff to take ownership of the projects to get them implemented when they can be implemented. Also, the commission will rely on staff to be the ones to have contacts with the vendors for pricing. Mr. Fishman commented that CSAC should make regular reports back to Council monthly with updates.

Mr. Reiner did not agree with Mr. Fishman's comments. He said the commission should discuss and work with staff, but there are some projects that need to be completed and implemented by the commission with minimal assistance from staff. Also, commission members can contact vendors to determine some price estimates if staff doesn't have information readily available. Mr. Reiner also stated that the commission really only needs to report back to Council when recommendations are being made and funds are being requested.

Mr. Fishman replied that he and Mr. Reiner would agree to disagree.

Mr. Graham and Ms. Bohman left the meeting.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2014 and January 13, 2015

Copies of the December 9, 2014 and January 13, 2015 meeting minutes had been distributed by email to CSAC members for review. Ms. Baker commented that she had a few minor changes to make to the minutes and would like to postpone approval of the December and January minutes until the March meeting. The commission agreed and both sets of minutes will be approved at the March meeting.

IV. Discuss Final Recommendations on Fishing Education

Fishing Education

Ms. Lynn noted that Ms. Bohman had emailed a draft to CSAC members of the Fishing subcommittee report summarizing their final recommendations, and it was distributed for review at the meeting (attached). An overview of some of the ideas are:

- Web information - Ms. Lynn commented that included in this report is some language the subcommittee would like added to the City's website. Ms. Lynn asked Mr. Hahn's if there is someone at the City who would review this before adding it to the website. Mr. Hahn said that the Parks staff would coordinate with the Community Relations staff with regard to the web site element.
- Fishing Demos – The subcommittee has some ideas about hosting a fishing demo day. They want to work with the City to make sure someone isn't already doing this or if the City can provide resources to help plan this. Ms. Lynn has emailed Michelle Crandall and Sandra Puskarcik, but she has not received any response back from either of them. There was some discussion and some concerns regarding the amount of the work the commission would need to contribute in putting together this type of event. Also if there is staff that already specializes in putting events together, then can we discuss it with them and let them plan the event and bring it to life. Mr. Earman commented that this is the point he brought up earlier in the meeting, that in instances like this there needs to be planning and approval from Council. Then in this case, it would involve different departments. So in order for this to be done correctly, it really needs to be planned for next year so it can be planned, prioritized and done right.
- Signage – Information has been provided to Mr. Hahn for the signage. Mr. Hahn said staff will start the process for the layout of the signs and start working on this portion.

Mr. Hahn said he has had an initial meeting with the staff that updates our website. They may need some more information from the sub-committee as they get started on it. Mr. Fishman asked Mr. Hahn if he was coordinating this fishing project with the rest of staff. Mr. Hahn said Parks staff will work with Community Relations staff on the website and the signs. We will also work on getting some waste receptacles. Mr. Hahn said once we get through the first part of the education piece, then that may be where this commission would present to Council the other ideas such as the fishing demo and ask for additional resources to move forward if approved.

Mr. Fishman suggested that the commission make a presentation to Council regarding the fishing topic. The commission discussed how often to provide updates to Council and agreed to provide a quarterly update at the end of each quarter at a Council meeting. Ms. Gawronski will contact Anne Clarke to schedule this for upcoming Council meetings. The commission would have a designated liaison attend on a quarterly basis and update Council on what CSAC is working on.

V. Update on CSAC Projects (subcommittee reports)

Pianos

Ms. Gawronski reported that the first piano was picked up and delivered to St. Brigid of Kildare last week to paint it. A second piano will be delivered tomorrow to Jerome High School. There are leads on two more pianos. If anyone has any ideas for a name for this project, please let the subcommittee know. We need to get pricing for the tents to keep the pianos protected. Ms. Gawronski asked if anyone knew of a school that would be interested in painting a piano. We want to make sure that when we have the pianos ready to pick up that we have someone ready to paint them. Ms. Hall suggested contacting an elementary school and a middle school, since we already have a high school doing one. The kids would love to be able to participate in this type of project. Ms. Hall volunteered to contact the art teacher at Thomas Elementary School. Next step is to determine some locations to place them. Some locations discussed were Coffman Park, Historic Dublin in the courtyard behind Mezzos, Historic Dublin by Starbucks. Mr. Hahn asked the commission to come up with some suggestions for locations and then present to Council for approval. There may not be any issue with locations discussed, but we should get Council's feedback before proceeding with placement. Ms. Gawronski requested feedback from the commission about holding a contest for the schools that decorate the pianos. The commission

decided not to proceed with a contest, but to let all of the student sign the pianos that they helped paint.

Dog Park Improvements

Ms. Lynn asked Mr. Hahn if the commission needs to revisit the topic of the dog park. Mr. Hahn was not concerned that it is an issue right now. A staff report has been provided to Council with the recommendations of this commission and the next steps in implementing some of the recommendations.

Scioto River Trail:

No update at this time.

Geocaching:

No update at this time.

Bicycle Friendly Community:

Ms. Baker commented that the subcommittee is still reviewing the criteria.

Climbing Opportunities:

No update at this time.

Indoor Educational Activities:

No update at this time.

VII. New Business

Roundabout Education

Mr. Ehrlich voiced his concerns about how people drive on the roundabouts in Dublin. When he was in Sumter County, Florida he picked up a brochure on how to navigate roundabouts. It provides very useful information. Mr. Ehrlich has discussed this with Michelle Crandall and will forward to her.

Discussion Group for Boomers/Seniors

Mr. Ehrlich shared a publication from The Villages, Florida. This is a great publication and within the publication there is a section called "Civil Discourse" The Civil Discourse Club meets weekly for an hour and a half a week on Monday mornings. Each week a speaker presents a topic in a 15-20 minute presentation, afterwards the audience members have a chance to express their views on the topic in an open, orderly and civil manner. Basically when you arrive at the meeting, you are given a number. If you want to speak at the end you must raise your number and it will be recorded. Then you have three minutes to talk. If you go over your three minutes, you will be asked to sit down. This group started with twelve people and now they hold two different sessions because there are so many people interested. Mr. Ehrlich has discussed this topic with Mr. Earman. This could be geared towards seniors or boomers. We have the room and audio system at the recreation center. This is just a great club where people want to learn something about different topics.

VIII. Next Meeting – March 10, 2015

The next CSAC meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Fishman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Baker. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Marja Keplar, Administrative Assistant